

It is important to remember that mosquitoes are a community-wide problem, requiring each of us to do our part. Please share this information with your neighbors and help those who may be physically unable to perform some of these tasks.

Here is some practical information to control mosquitoes around the house and in your community:

Mosquito Facts

All mosquitoes require a blood meal to allow the eggs to develop, and water in which to lay their eggs.

Mosquitoes will lay their eggs in virtually any receptacle containing water and decomposing organic material such as leaves, grass clippings or even algae.

Breeding habitats may include discarded tires, buckets, clogged rain gutters, birdbaths, unused swimming pools, toys or any other source containing stagnant water.

When the weather is favorable, a mosquito can grow from an egg to an adult in less than 10 days.

Mosquitoes can travel great distances from the breeding ground. Mosquitoes do not breed in tall grass, as many people believe. However, tall grass and other

shady areas such as shrubs and ornamental trees with low-lying branches provide mosquitoes with shelter and resting areas.

Mosquitoes use humans as blood meal sources and will enter houses to feed.

Controlling Mosquitoes Around the Home

- Make sure window and door screens are bug tight.
- Dispose of old tires, cans, buckets, or any containers that collect and hold water.
- To drain water, drill holes in the bottom of tire swings and recycling containers that are left outside.
- Clean debris from rain gutters to prevent clogging.
- Empty and change water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least weekly, if not more often.
- If you keep pet's food and water bowl outside, clean and change water daily.
- Use mosquito repellents when necessary and follow directions on the label closely. An effective repellent will contain the active ingredient DEET. Make sure to use

pediatric approved repellents for children.

- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants when going in to an area with high mosquito populations.
- Keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated. Make arrangements to maintain your swimming pool if you are away from home for an extended period of time. Prevent water from collecting on top of swimming pool covers, which can be an excellent mosquito-breeding source.
- Ornamental pools can also be a major mosquito-breeding source; stock them with surface-feeding minnows.
- Mow your lawn on a regular basis. Irrigate lawn and gardens carefully to prevent standing water.
- Cut weeds growing next to building foundations and fence lines to remove mosquito hiding and resting areas.
- Fill or drain puddles, ditches and swampy areas, and either remove, drain, or fill tree holes and stumps with mortar or sand.
- Area spraying or fogging for adult mosquitoes is only a temporary solution.

- Ultraviolet light devices (bug zappers) and electronic mosquito repellents have been shown to have limited effectiveness.

Caution: When using an insecticide or pesticide, only use those approved for use against the specified pest you are trying to control.

Always read the label and follow directions for safe use.

Studying bird populations is a method used to monitor the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus. The Detroit Health Department, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, is asking citizens to report any sick or dying large black birds such as crows, ravens, and starlings.

*Avoid barehanded
contact with dead birds.*

For more information or to report
any dead black bird call

(313) 876-4516

www.health.ci.detroit.mi.us



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CONTROLLING



MOSQUITOES

**DETROIT HEALTH
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